

LAKE COUNTRY

Community unites to create Baskets of Hope for Easter

The Lake Area Easter Basket Project, also known as Baskets of Hope, will once more spread Easter joy to children in foster care and those facing economic hardship. As of last September, Georgia's foster care system was serving approximately 11,000 children.

Inspired by Easter's message of renewal and revitalized spirit, Baskets of Hope seeks to make a difference through a simple yet meaningful gesture: providing children in need with a special Easter basket filled with love. The project is funded primarily through individual donations and contributions from church and civic groups, and each year, the generosity of the community ensures no child is forgotten.

Since its 2020 inception, this heartfelt initiative has delivered

more than 2,300 Easter baskets to children across 12 Middle Georgia counties, bringing a sense of hope and celebration during the Easter season. Last year alone, the project distributed 791 baskets to children in need.

As Baskets of Hope embarks on its 2025 campaign, it invites the community to participate by filling and donating Easter baskets. The goal is to serve children in Putnam, Greene, Baldwin, Morgan, Jasper, Jones, Newton, Rockdale, Hancock, Oconee, and Washington counties, offering them the joy and excitement of Easter.

For more information, email Baskets of Hope Project Coordinator Shannon Daniel at sldaniel31024@gmail.com.

— Contributed



DFCS coordinators carefully organized and distributed Easter baskets for last year's event, ensuring children in foster care and those in need experience the joy of the season. CONTRIBUTED

GREENE COUNTY

Church outscores itself on Souper Bowl Sunday

On Sunday, Feb. 9 (Super Bowl Sunday), the First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro scored a new high in donations on this 35th year of the Souper Bowl of Caring. Now a tradition, this act of caring and sharing started at the Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina, in 1990. That first year, with 22 Columbia churches participating, more than \$7,500 in food and cash was collected to help combat hunger in Columbia. Since then, the national movement has grown to include thousands of churches, along with business and civic organizations, and has donated more than \$200,000,000 in food and money to combat hunger throughout the country.

Held every year on Super Bowl Sunday, the First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro has participated in this event for many years. Under the inspired leadership of Elder Carla Pinkney, the church outdid itself this year. More than 1,000 cans of soup were collected for the Greene County Food Pantry and more than \$1,000 was given in support of Our Father's Kitchen, which provides free lunches to people in need every Saturday of the year.

The First Presbyterian Church, a PC (USA) church, is located at 117 S. Main St. (next to the post office) in downtown Greensboro. Sunday services are at 11 a.m., preceded by Scripture Study at 9:45 a.m.

— Contributed



A portion of donated food on display in the sanctuary. CONTRIBUTED



Carla and Paul Pinkney (in purple) help deliver the food to volunteers at the Greene County Food Pantry. CONTRIBUTED



The bed of a pickup truck filled with food. CONTRIBUTED

LAKE COUNTRY

Rotary Raffle Winner Week 3



Rotarians Rick Siddons (left) and Bob Massey presented a Rotary Raffle prize of a certificate worth \$700 from Southern Laser Medical Spa & Healing for a basic facial, classic pedicure, and micropigmentation of brows to Rotary Raffle Week 3 winner Lou Benjamin, who was unavailable for the photo.

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